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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Venues of sessions of subsidiary organs of the Council

Note by the Secretariat

1. In paragraph 8 of its resolution 51/211 A of 18 December 1996, the General Assembly invited all subsidiary bodies that are authorized to meet away from their established headquarters to review, in the interest of improved efficiency and cost-effectiveness, the exception to the headquarters rule in light of the current situation of their work, and to make recommendations thereon, through the Committee on Conferences, to the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

2. In paragraph 9 of the same resolution, the Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council to carry out the review referred to above in respect of its subsidiary bodies.

3. The headquarters rule is found in section I of Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985. In respect of the subsidiary bodies of the Council, it states that the functional commissions "shall meet at their established headquarters unless the Council designates another place to achieve a more rational pattern of the work programme, taking into account any recommendation of the commission concerned and in consultation with the Secretary-General". The resolution also stipulates that the regular sessions of the regional commissions, as well as meetings of their subsidiary bodies, "may be held away from their headquarters when the commission concerned so decides, subject, in the case of the regular sessions of the commissions, to the approval of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly". Such a decision on a venue other than the established headquarters would be taken by the Council and

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the Assembly during their consideration of the relevant biennial calendar of conferences and meetings.

4. The established headquarters of the functional commissions of the Council are as follows:

(a) Statistical Commission - New York;

(b) Commission on Population and Development - New York;

(c) Commission for Social Development - New York;

(d) Commission on the Status of Women - New York;

(e) Commission on Sustainable Development - New York;

(f) Commission on Human Rights - Geneva;

(g) Commission on Science and Technology for Development - Geneva;

(h) Commission on Narcotic Drugs - Vienna;

(i) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice - Vienna.

No waiver of the headquarters rule has been requested for a session of a functional commission of the Council in many years.

5. Regular sessions of the regional commissions are on occasion held away from their established headquarters. Such meetings are governed by the provisions of section I of Assembly resolution 40/243 discussed in paragraph 3 above. When the venue of the session is other than the headquarters of the Commission, it is indicated in the calendar of conferences, which is approved by the Council and, after it has been examined by the Committee on Conferences, by the Assembly as well.

6. The only exception to the rule is the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, which holds its annual session alternately at United Nations Headquarters in New York and the United Nations Office at Geneva pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of section I of Assembly resolution 40/243.

7. None of the other subsidiary bodies of the Council, including its standing committees and groups of experts, has requested to meet other than at its established headquarters in recent memory.